

The passage of the FIRE Act, which will help fire departments across the country better serve their communities for years to come, has been one of my greatest achievements while in Congress. I trust that Chief Imparato feels the same way about this piece of history-making legislation because we accomplished it together. Fire departments across the Nation will long owe Lou an immense debt of gratitude for his inspired work.

Committed to enhancing the work environment for firefighters throughout the State of New Jersey as well as on the national level, Lou served for 3 years as the President of the Local F.M.B.A., and for 10 years as the Local F.M.B.A. State Delegate. His great dedication and personal valor has been widely noted by the people he has served and by his peers—most notably when the New Jersey State F.M.B.A. honored him by asking him to serve as the Chairman of their Valor Awards Dinner.

As you can see, every aspect of Chief Imparato's life's work epitomizes the noble spirit of selfless service that we all strive to achieve. The sense of excellence and initiative that has driven Lou's life work has made him living proof that those who dedicate themselves to helping others are among the most valued and loved members of the community.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the efforts of public servants like Lou Imparato. I ask that you join our colleagues, the men and women of the City of Passaic, fire departments across the country, and me in recognizing the invaluable service of Chief Louis Imparato.

TRIBUTE TO THE SHILOH BAPTIST
CHURCH AND THE REVEREND
JAMES B. RODGERS

HON. ROBERT T. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to The Shiloh Baptist Church and The Reverend James B. Rodgers. On December 21, Reverend Rodgers will officially be installed as the twenty-seventh Pastor of the Shiloh Baptist Church, the oldest African-American church west of the Mississippi River and the first Baptist Church organized by African-Americans in Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Shiloh Baptist Church family and Dr. James B. Rodgers, Pastor, on this momentous occasion.

The Shiloh Baptist Church, located in the Fifth Congressional District of the State of California, was established in 1856 as the oldest African American Baptist Church West of the Mississippi River and the second oldest African American church in the City of Sacramento. Since the church had no facilities upon its establishment in which to hold religious services, it forged a strong relationship with the Chinese Americans in the area, which resulted in an offer being extended for Shiloh to hold religious services at the Chinese Chapel, located at historic Sixth and H Streets in Sacramento.

Shiloh has overcome many obstacles to its missionary services, including bank foreclosure in the 1860s; significant reductions in

its membership because of relocations; destruction of the church facility by fire in 1861 and 1905; and the inability to secure building loans on several occasions. However, today Shiloh stands firm as a testament to the strong faith, perseverance, determination, character and courage of its founders and early congregations.

Since its establishment, Shiloh has provided dedicated service to the citizens of the Capital Region, much of which was accomplished during 26 plus years of outstanding leadership by Pastor Emeritus Willie P. Cooke. Shiloh has provided many services through its many ministries and has participated in numerous community based programs, including but not limited to, establishment of an Elderly Appreciation Day; the participation in the annual Sacramento Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration; host church for the Sacramento Children Summer Food Program; organized a prison ministry for youth incarcerated in the California Youth Authority and the Sacramento County Probation Department; and instituted a Caregiver's Program to provide services to sick and residence-bound citizens.

In recognition and appreciation of these community services, Shiloh has received numerous Presidential, Congressional, Gubernatorial, and State Legislative commendations dating back more than 40 years.

For the past 18 months, Shiloh has continued its mission under the direction of Pastor Emeritus William P. Cooke. However, Shiloh recently called on Dr. Rodgers to serve as its 27th pastoral leader and to add to the rich religious and community history it has developed over the past 147 years.

The Reverend James B. Rodgers has served faithfully in the ministry, preaching and teaching the gospel for over 32 years. In preparation for his calling to the ministry and in continuation of his ministerial duties, Dr. Rodgers commenced his academic studies with the United States Naval Academy and has earned an Associate of Arts Degree in Business; a Bachelor of Arts in Theology; a Masters of Theology; a Doctorate of Theology; and a Masters in Education Administration.

Dr. Rodgers' official installation as pastor will occur during a three-day ceremony at Shiloh Baptist Church commencing with a community night on Friday, December 19, 2003, and concluding with the installation on Sunday, December 21, 2003. These services are designed to introduce Dr. Rodgers to the Shiloh family and to the Greater Sacramento community.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to thank and congratulate the Shiloh Baptist Church for nearly 150 years of invaluable service to the City of Sacramento. I would like to especially welcome Dr. James B. Rodgers to our community and to the Shiloh Baptist Church. I ask all my colleagues to join me in wishing the Shiloh Baptist Church and Dr. Rodgers continued success in all their future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO TABETHA
SALSBURY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to a remarkable young

lady from my district. Tabetha Salsbury is a fifteen-year-old resident of Pueblo, Colorado who spent last summer restoring a 1935 John Deere tractor. Tabetha did a wonderful job that resulted in a finely renovated machine. Recently, Tabetha's hard work paid off when she became a national champion in tractor restoration. I am proud to recognize her accomplishments here before my colleagues today.

All summer, Tabetha worked tirelessly disassembling, fixing and reassembling the tractor. When she had finished, Tabetha and her family took the time to transport the newly refurbished tractor to its previous owner so that he could see his old machine in its newfound glory.

Through her talent and dedication in the garage, Tabetha has achieved a historic first. As national champion, Tabetha is the first female that has ever finished in the top three in the national competition. She has proven herself as capable as any young tractor mechanic in Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise and pay tribute to Tabetha Salsbury. She has proven what can be accomplished through hard work. Tabetha's tenacity and dedication set a fine example for young men and women throughout our nation and it is my honor to rise and congratulate her on a well-deserved award.

TRIBUTE TO STAFF SGT. JOHN
FOLSOM

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Staff Sgt. John L. Folsom, a Korean War veteran from Lady Lake, Florida in my Fifth Congressional District.

On Sunday, November 2nd, I had the pleasure of recognizing Staff Sgt. Folsom for his heroism and bravery as a United States Soldier who fought in the Korean War from January 1951 to February 1954. He continued his service to the Nation for 10 years after the conclusion of the Korean War, retiring in November 1964, having achieved the rank of Staff Sergeant (E-6).

On February 5, 1953 Staff Sgt. Folsom was wounded in his right leg by a sniper attack as his unit was "digging in" at the top of a hill in Seoul.

I will present Staff Sgt. Folsom with the Purple Heart, the oldest military decoration in the world, 50 years overdue.

Though he earned this honor, he never received it from the Defense Department and I am honored to have the opportunity to present to him the Purple Heart for his selfless devotion to duty and service to the United States.

A PROCLAMATION HONORING
JOSEPH BRUNO MANASSE

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 8, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker: